

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CALGAR 00305 072328Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10
/117 W

-----094190 072330Z /75

P 072250Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL CALGARY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2087

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS CALGARY 0305

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJ: REACTION TO NEB S NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE RECOMMEN-
DATIONS

1. REACTION IN CALGARY TO NEB S NORTHERN PIPELINE FINDINGS
WAS PREDICTABLE. ALCAN SUPPORTERS PRAISED NEB S RECOMMEN-
DATIONS AS BEING IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CANADA, WHILE
ARCTIC GAS PROPONENTS AND MOST OTHERS DESCRIBED NEB PIPELINE
REPORT AS "COP OUT" AND "STRICTLY POLITICAL". SEVERAL OIL-
MEN EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT NEB HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH
ALCAN PROJECT S GREATER PROVISION FOR CANADIAN EQUITY AND
ALMOST ALL STATED THAT GOC HAD WISHED TO FINESSE ENVIRON-
MENTAL AND NATIVE PEOPLE PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED BY BERGER
REPORT.

2. VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE PETROLEUM EXECUTIVES WITH WHOM WE
SPOKE THOUGHT THAT NEB REPORT WOULD BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR
IN GOC S NORTHERN PIPELINE DECISION. CONSERVATIVE MP TOLD
CONGEN THAT PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF PIPELINE ISSUE
WOULD NOW BE PRO FORMA. A FEDERAL MINISTER CONTRADICTED
THIS CONTENTION BY STATING THAT HE PLANNED "TO RAISE HELL"
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ABOUT NEB S FINDINGS IN CABINET.

3. THERE ARE MOVES AFOOT HERE TO BRING AT LEASE SOME OF
THE CAGSL PARTICIPANTS INTO THE ALCAN PROJECT. AGTL DIRECTOR
TOLD US THAT THERE WOULD NOW BE A JOINING OF FORCES, AND
AGTL VICE PRESIDENT IS QUOTED AS TELLING ARCTIC GAS SUPPORT-
ERS THAT "IT S TIME FOR US TO GET TOGETHER". SENIOR

IMPERIAL OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT FOOTHILLS GROUP
DID NOT WANT ANY PARTICIPATION BY THE MAJORS.

4. NUMBER OF CALGARY OIL EXECUTIVES EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT
FOOTHILLS ABILITY TO ORGANIZE DOLS TEN BILLION PROJECT BY
END OF AUGUST. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT PARTICIPATION
BY THE LARGER CANADIAN OIL COMPANIES IS REQUIRED AND THAT
IT WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BY MANDATED BY GOC.
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Message Attributes

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